

**APPLICATION TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FOR DISPENSATION**

Please note that each section **MUST** be completed. Please refer to the attached Guidance Notes when completing the form.

1. YOUR DETAILS

Your full name: Owen Alexander Marmion Williams

Name of your Council: Manordeilo & Salem Community Council

Your address and postcode:

Maesydderwen, 1 Golwg-Y-Gaer, Salem, Llandeilo, SA19 7PA

Contact telephone number(s):

07891592428 or 01558822061

Email address:

owing130@gmail.com

2. DETAILS OF YOUR INTEREST

What is the matter under consideration?

To consider the published list of candidate sites submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council as part of its Revised LDP process.

What is your interest in the above matter?

The property in which I am resident is adjacent to three candidate sites submitted. My personal preference, and that of my family, is for no residential development to take place on these sites

When will the above matter be considered?

I have just yesterday (16th January 2019) been notified that the matter will be the only item on the agenda of an extraordinary meeting of the Community Council that has been scheduled for 6th February 2019.

Are you applying for dispensation to:

Speak only:

Speak and vote:

Make written

Representations

Exercise Executive

Powers

3. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

Regulations issued by the National Assembly for Wales prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	<input type="checkbox"/>
my participation would not damage public confidence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	<input type="checkbox"/>
my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
the business is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and my interest is not a pecuniary interest;	<input type="checkbox"/>
the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case:

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

Firstly, I would like to point out that, although I have indicated that I would like to speak and make written representations, I would be satisfied with either one and only wish to make whichever is deemed appropriate by the Standards Committee (if any).

The primary reason that I wish to speak on the matter of candidate sites is because of my local and general expertise. In general terms, I am a member of the Key Stakeholder Forum for the Revised LDP and am in all probability the only member of the Community Council who has consulted every published document related to the Revised LDP. I therefore possess a good knowledge of the LDP revision process.

Similarly, my profession is that of a PhD researcher, whereby my thesis concerns case studies in historic environment policy in Wales and Quebec. The Welsh case study requires me to understand and have a good knowledge of how the planning system relates to historic environment matters that includes a substantial crossover with subjects relevant to the LDP revision process. Therefore, I would venture to suggest that my theoretical and procedural knowledge of the planning system and ability to assess evidence to an academic standard is unique on the Community Council, whereas the knowledge of other Councillors tends to be based upon personal and professional experience (e.g. construction, renovation etc).

Using this expertise I would like to speak about three general points that indirectly relate to the candidate sites in question. I wish to share my research into the potential consequences and implications of City-Region Deals (due to the Swansea Bay Deal occupying a prominent position in the draft Preferred Strategy); contribute analysis on the assumptions underlying the population forecasts made by Edge Analytics; and to contribute analysis on Salem's designation as a sustainable village. I believe that I would make these contributions irrespective of any candidate sites close to my property and that these contributions may be enlightening and relevant for other Councillors to hear.

In terms of local expertise, I am one of only two Community Councillors based within Salem village, and am the only one based close to the candidate sites in question. It is here worth noting that other residents adjacent to the sites share the same preferences as myself and wish their views to be represented. But in order for the Standards Committee to make an informed decision I believe that it is important to acknowledge and reiterate my own personal interest clearly: my preference and the preference of my family would be for there to be no residential development allowed on the candidate sites in question. If the Standards Committee decides that this preference renders me ineligible to speak or make written representations then I would entirely understand. I have absolutely no wish to unduly influence a fair and open process.

If allowed to speak I would like to contribute a critical analysis of the candidate sites in question based upon the following factors:

- Access to the site for emergency services, construction vehicles, and potential residents
- Provision of public transport in the area and its implications for the candidate sites and the wellbeing and strategic objectives included within the draft Preferred Strategy
- Provision of infrastructure and services in the area and its implications for the candidate sites and the wellbeing and strategic objectives included within the draft Preferred Strategy
- The environment and wildlife in the area and their implications for the candidate sites and the wellbeing and strategic objectives included within the draft Preferred Strategy
- Alternative suggestions and sustainability in the area and their implications for the candidate sites and the wellbeing and strategic objectives included within the draft Preferred Strategy

I believe that these matters would all be relevant and useful for the Community Council to hear and would be consistent with the contributions that I and others have previously made to planning applications viewed by the Community Council. I should be happy to listen and discuss the views of other Councillors on the matter and would accept any decision of the Community Council without argument no matter which way it was made.

I hope that I have outlined enough detail and information for the Standards Committee to make an informed decision and that you will please consider my request for dispensation favourably. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

I confirm that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I agree that this application and all the information contained within it may form part of a public report to the Standards Committee. I request a dispensation in respect of the above matter.

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form to the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.

Guidance notes

- (1) Please read through the Code of Conduct and decide which of the paragraphs is most appropriate to your case. Brief details of the relevant paragraphs are noted in the table below. If you are unsure, please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice.

Para.	Type of personal interest	
10(2)(a)	Council business which relates to or is likely to affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your employment or business, • your employer, firm or company • a contract made between the Council and you • any land, lease or licence in which you have an interest • a public body or other association in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management 	
10(2)(b)	Council business in which there may be a conflict between your decision-making role and your role in representing constituents in your ward	
10(2)(c)	Council business which affects your well-being or financial position, or the well-being, financial position or other interests of a person with whom you live or have a close personal association	
13	Council business which is being considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and which relates to a decision of the Cabinet or another Committee of which you were a member at the time [County Council only]	

- (2) The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001 state that a Standards Committee may grant dispensations where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the members of a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority by which the business is to be considered to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;

- (h) the business which is to be considered relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the relevant authority and the member has no other interest in that business provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business; or
- (i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.